

BEFORE
THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF
SOUTH CAROLINA
DOCKET NO. 2013-391-C - ORDER NO. 2013-901
DECEMBER 20, 2013

IN RE:	Application of Fairfield Communications,)	ORDER GRANTING
	Incorporated to Amend Its Certificate of)	EXPEDITED REVIEW
	Public Convenience and Necessity to Provide)	AND APPROVING
	Local Exchange and Exchange Access)	APPLICATION FOR
	Telecommunications Services for Expanded)	EXPANDED AUTHORITY
	Authority to Customers Located in Certain)	
	Areas Being Served by BellSouth)	
	Telecommunications, LLC d/b/a AT&T)	
	South Carolina in Fairfield and Newberry)	
	Counties)	

This matter comes before the Public Service Commission of South Carolina (“Commission”) in connection with the Application of Fairfield Communications, Inc. (“Applicant” or “Fairfield”) to expand its authority to provide local exchange and exchange access telecommunications services to customers located in certain areas being served by BellSouth Telecommunications, LLC d/b/a AT&T South Carolina (“AT&T”). The Applicant has further requested expedited review and waiver of the formal evidentiary hearing, and has also requested flexible regulation of its service offerings. We have reviewed the Application and all of the materials submitted in support thereof, including the verified testimony of Mr. J. Brian Singleton, and have determined the requested expansion of authority to be in the public interest. We grant expedited review and approve the Application.

The Applicant is organized as a corporation in the State of South Carolina and has previously been issued a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity by this Commission. In 2003, the Commission granted the Applicant a Certificate in Docket No. 2002-355-C to provide local exchange and exchange access service to customers located in the Winnsboro exchange currently being served by Frontier Communications of the Carolinas, Inc., formerly Verizon South, Inc. See Order No. 2003-41 in Docket No. 2002-355-C. In 2007, the Commission granted the Applicant's request to amend its Certificate to permit it to provide local exchange and exchange access service to customers located within the portion of AT&T's service area located within Kershaw County. See Commission Order No. 2007-1 in Docket No. 2002-355-C. In 2012, the Commission granted the Applicant a Certificate in Docket No. 2011-433-C to provide local exchange and exchange access service to customers located in the portion of AT&T's service area located within Richland County. See Order No. 2012-76 in Docket No. 2011-433-C. Both the Certificate and the amended Certificate were granted to the Applicant upon a finding by the Commission that the Applicant has the technical, financial, and managerial resources sufficient to provide the requested services within the State of South Carolina, and that the Applicant met all other requirements of certification. The Applicant continues to meet these requirements.

The Applicant proposes to expand its service to those areas currently being served by AT&T in Fairfield and Newberry Counties. The areas in question are contiguous to areas already served by Fairfield in Fairfield and Richland Counties. The Applicant will provide a full range of local exchange and exchange access services in the expanded area

once plant and facilities are in place to enable the Applicant to provide such services in the expanded area. The Applicant's proposed local exchange and exchange access services will be provided to customers located in the expanded area under the same terms and conditions as it is currently providing to customers in its presently certificated service area, at rates comparable to those of the incumbent LEC serving the area.

Amending the Applicant's Certificate to expand its service area will serve the public interest. The Applicant is an established competitive local exchange carrier in South Carolina. Provision of service by the Applicant in the requested service area will enhance competition in the State of South Carolina by offering additional service options and high service quality to South Carolina telecommunications users.

As demonstrated in the Applicant's prior certification proceedings, service history, and the Annual Reports that are filed with the Commission and the Office of Regulatory Staff by the Applicant and its parent company on an annual basis, the Applicant has the technical, managerial, and financial resources necessary to provide service in the requested areas. The Applicant will provide services which meet the service standards of the Commission; the Applicant's provision of service will not adversely impact the availability of affordable local exchange service, and will not otherwise adversely impact the public interest; and the Applicant will support universally available telephone service at affordable rates.

The Commission has previously granted the Applicant's request for flexible regulation of its local exchange telecommunications services. See Commission Order No. 2003-41 in Docket No. 2002-355-C. The Applicant requests the same treatment for

local exchange telecommunications services provided in the expanded area for which it requests certification.

The Applicant published a Notice of the Filing of the request in newspapers of general circulation, as required by the Commission. The deadline to intervene in this matter was December 2, 2013.

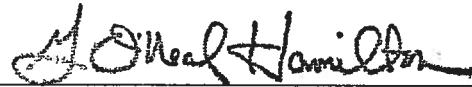
The South Carolina Office of Regulatory Staff (“ORS”) is a statutory party to this action. See S.C. Code Ann. § 58-4-10(B). Fairfield’s counsel has consulted with counsel for ORS, and ORS does not object to Fairfield’s request for expedited review.

No other comments or petitions to intervene were received in response to the notice. Thus, all interested persons have been afforded an opportunity for a hearing, as required by S.C. Code Ann. § 58-9-280(B), Section 1-23-320(a) of the South Carolina Administrative Procedures Act, and constitutional due process. Proceeding without a formal hearing in this matter would serve the public interest in administrative efficiency.

The Commission therefore grants expedited review of this matter and waives the usual formal evidentiary hearing, ruling on the requested relief at the Commission’s regularly-scheduled public agenda session. The Commission further grants the Applicant’s requested expansion of authority and flexible regulation.

This Order shall remain in full force and effect until further order of the Commission.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:



G. O'Neal Hamilton, Chairman

ATTEST:



Nikiya Hall, Vice Chairman

(SEAL)